



# Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Northern Mariana Islands Division of Environmental Quality*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Northern Mariana Islands Division of Environmental Quality was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (population 69,221) is a self-governing U.S. commonwealth consisting of 14 islands with a total land area of 183.5 square miles. Since becoming a commonwealth in 1976, the CNMI has experienced a population boom. Growth in the garment industries created a demand for guest labor. Today, more than 56 percent of CNMI residents are

### Assessment Grant



#### \$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Northern Mariana Islands Division of Environmental Quality for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 20 Phase I and eight Phase II environmental site assessments and to support community outreach activities on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team  
415-972-3091

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Northern Mariana Islands  
Division of Environmental Quality  
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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

non-U.S. citizens. According to the 2000 Census, the CNMI's per capita income is \$9,151, and 46 percent of CNMI residents live below the poverty level.

Brownfields on the islands include former garment factories, dry cleaners, and heavy equipment facilities. There also are a number of sites contaminated by historic military operations, many of which are abandoned or idle. Brownfields assessment will provide information that is expected to be instrumental in determining site reuse and help preserve the highly valuable, limited land resources on the islands.